

PETITION

OF

AUGUSTUS JONES, OF MISSOURI,

On behalf of the Washington Turnpike Company, for the right of way, and two hundred feet on each side of said road, through the public lands.

APRIL 30, 1836.

Referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :

Your petitioner begs leave respectfully to state that, on the 16th of March, 1835, the Legislature of the State of Missouri passed an act incorporating a company by the name of the Washington County Turnpike Company, for the purpose of making a road from Caledonia, Washington county, Missouri, to the Mississippi river ; which act is made a part of this petition.

Your petitioner begs leave further to state that Washington county is the centre of the mineral district, abounding in mineral wealth, of various kinds, of unprecedented value, which would be much aided in the development by this road.

Your petitioner begs leave to refer to a short but imperfect description which the undersigned had published in one of the Missouri papers, and which he incorporates in this petition :

ST. LOUIS, *February 26, 1836.*

SIR: Permit me to give you my views in relation to the mineral region in Missouri, especially that confined south of the Missouri river, and of which it seems our own citizens are ignorant. We have, in what is called the mineral region, a mountain of iron ore, which is seven miles in length, and its average width three miles. This mountain presents, at one glance of the eye, more iron ore than all the furnaces in the United States could use in one thousand years. A gentleman and iron-master, when on the mountain, was asked his opinion in relation to the quantity of ore: he replied, "I see on the surface more iron ore than one hundred thousand furnaces could manufacture in one thousand years." I know a mountain, not far distant from the one mentioned, that is called Stony Point, so named from its very stony appearance. Many have passed by this mountain, believing it to be stone, when in fact it is iron ore.

The above ore yields from 70 to 80 per centum.

Previous to the manufacturing of iron in this State, I had a knife made of this ore, in the common smith's fire, which bore a good edge. A gentleman from Virginia had his horse shod from this same ore, and after travelling two thousand miles, had them taken off by a smith, who persisted in the opinion that they were steel. There is, in the same region of country, copper ore, boundless in its extent; thousands of pounds are to be seen on the surface. From its very malleable quality, I have seen watch crystal made of it in an ordinary smith-fire. In the same region there is a mountain of black lead; and there is also zinc. Of this copper and zinc, I know a smith who makes bells, preferred to any brought to this State. I have seen bars of silver which were made in the section of country, so pure as to be exchanged weight for weight for coined silver. Many pieces of silver coin are now in circulation from this ore, which cannot be detected. Gold has been discovered, but to what extent I am unable to say.

Saltpetre is abundant, and many of the hills are covered with sulphur.

To my own personal knowledge the lead district extends to at least three hundred miles, and abounds in quantity and quality not surpassed in the civilized world. There are many other minerals, the names of which are unknown to me.

Again, there are hills of marble which will vie with any in the world: and I have seen mill-stones taken from the quarry, not surpassed by the French burr for manufacturing of flour, being the same, to all appearance. Stones are also to be found among the hills, some of which are transparent, and others variegated in shade and colors.

The above country is mountainous, and interspersed with beautiful valleys of fertile soil and delightful water. They are admirably adapted to grazing, being clothed with rich grass, and grow the most stately pine, cedar, oak, and many other kinds of timber. From those mountains and hills many streams are formed, well suited to drive any machinery to any extent. The head waters of one of the streams commences in the centre of this region and traverses its course within twenty miles of this city.

Having passed over this region, you have presented to your view the finest natural stock country in the world. There are many individuals who have, at a reasonable estimate, from eighty to one hundred head of horses, from one to two hundred head of cattle, and from three to five hundred head of hogs, at no other expense than salt. Stock is invariably fatter in March than any other time of the year.

There is a man at this time who has about six thousand dollars worth of stock, at no other expense than two herdsmen. This stock was driven there in November last, and many of them were poor: at this time they are fair beef for market. Believing they will continue to improve, they will not be driven to market for some weeks. Why is it that this country is so little known? Believing this country to be unknown in a great measure, I have ventured to write for the information of those who may desire it.

I am yours, very respectfully,

A.

Your petitioner further states that, such is the richness of the iron ore in the neighborhood where this road will commence, that notwithstand-

ing the expenses of a land and water carriage, and incidental expenses, half-blooms are transported to Pittsburg at a considerable profit to those who have been engaged in the business for many years.

Your petitioner still further states that most of the country through which this road will have to pass to the Mississippi, is of a broken, sterile, mountainous character; that numerous streams will have to be bridged, deep cuts made in the mountains, and the most laborious and expensive operations carried on necessary to the completion of the road.

Your petitioner further states that the greater part of the country through which this road will have to pass, belongs to the Government of the United States, and in its present condition is of little value.

Your petitioner further states that, in the event of this road being made, these lands, which for ages perhaps would remain in possession of the Government without a bidder, will, on the completion of this road, be increased in value at least a thousand fold; he therefore prays that an act of Congress may be passed, granting to said company the right of way over the public lands, with two hundred feet on each side of said road, from the point where said road commences, (Caledonia,) to such point on the Mississippi as may be designated.

And in duty bound, he will forever pray.

A. JONES.

AN ACT incorporating a company to make a McAdamized turnpike road from the town of Caledonia, in Washington county, to the Mississippi river.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri*, That a company be, and the same is hereby incorporated, for making a McAdamized turnpike road, to commence at the southern extremity of the town of Caledonia, in Washington county, or at the southwest corner of said town, running north therewith, and continue thence by the nearest and best route to the Mississippi river.

SEC. 2. That for making said road, subscription books for a capital stock of three hundred thousand dollars, in fifteen thousand shares, at twenty dollars each, be opened at the towns of Potosi, St. Genevieve, and St. Louis, in this State, under the direction of Augustus Jones, and such persons as he may select, on the first Monday in June next, and continue open for ninety days; and in the event of five thousand shares not being subscribed for at the expiration of the said ninety days, in the manner hereinafter provided, that then, and in that event, the said Augustus Jones is hereby authorized and empowered to cause said books to be re-opened, at such times or places as he shall think proper, until the managers of the company are elected in the manner hereinafter mentioned, unless in the mean time the said capital stock of three hundred thousand dollars be subscribed for.

SEC. 3. It shall and may be lawful for every incorporation or body politic, in the State of Missouri, or any of the United States or Territories, to become stockholders in said company, and hold stock therein.

SEC. 4. That when the said five thousand shares of said stock shall have been subscribed for, the said Augustus Jones shall give four weeks' public notice in one or more of the newspapers printed in the said city

of St. Louis, of the time and place which he shall designate, for the subscribers to meet for the purpose of organizing said corporation, choosing, by a plurality of votes by ballot, a president and seven managers, (four of whom shall be a quorum,) a treasurer, and such other officers as they shall deem necessary for conducting the affairs of said company, until the first Monday in June thereafter, and until a new election; and for making such by-laws, rules, orders, and regulations, as do not contravene the constitution and laws of this State, or of the United States, and may be necessary for the well-governing the affairs of the said company; and that at such meeting for election, or in determining any question arising at any subsequent meeting, every person or body politic, holding shares, shall be entitled to vote as follows: that is to say, for every share so held, not exceeding three, one vote each; for every number of shares greater than three, and not exceeding ten, five votes; for any number of shares greater than ten, and not exceeding fifty, seven votes; for any number of shares greater than fifty, and not exceeding one hundred, ten votes; and for every additional hundred shares above one hundred, ten votes: *Provided*, That no person or body politic shall have more than thirty votes, whatever number of shares he, she, it, or they, may be entitled to.

SEC. 5. That, after the first meeting of the stockholders shall have been held as hereinbefore mentioned, there shall be a meeting of the stockholders on the first Monday of June, in each and every year, or within four days thereafter, at such place as the said stockholders in their said first meeting shall designate, when and where they may elect, by a plurality of votes, by ballot, a president, seven managers, (four of whom shall be a quorum,) a treasurer, and such other officers as they may deem necessary for the ensuing year, and until a new election; and may, by a majority of votes present, adopt, add to, alter, or amend, such by-laws, rules, orders, and regulations, as may be necessary for the well-governing the affairs of the company: *Provided*, That they do not contravene the constitution or the laws of this State or of the United States.

SEC. 6. That the sums subscribed to the stock of said company shall be paid in the following manner: one dollar on each share to the said Augustus Jones, or the person by him selected for that purpose, at the time of subscribing; four dollars on each share to the managers elected agreeably to the provisions of this act, within one month after the election of managers, and the remainder in such sums and at such times as the managers or a majority of them may appoint, they giving two months' notice of the payments required, in one or more of the newspapers published at the city of St Louis, aforesaid.

SEC. 7. That the stockholders in the said company shall be and they are hereby incorporated and constituted a body politic, by the name of the "Washington County Turnpike Company," and by that name shall have succession during the continuance of this incorporation; and the said stockholders and their successors by such name, may sue and be sued, answer and be answered, in any court of law or equity in this State, and may do and execute every other matter and things by the name aforesaid, that they are authorized to do in virtue of this act.

SEC. 8. That, after the president and managers are elected, in the manner hereinbefore mentioned, they shall have full power and authori-

ty to receive subscriptions for all unsubscribed or vacant shares, and upon the said election, the powers heretofore vested in the said Augustus Jones, for receiving subscriptions, shall cease: *Provided, nevertheless*, That, when either the capital stock or a sum sufficient for the completion of the said road is subscribed for, no further subscription shall be received.

SEC. 9. That the president and managers be, and they are hereby authorized, to appoint three commissioners, whom, or a majority of whom agreeing, shall lay out the said road in the nearest and best direction, from the southern extremity of the said town of Caledonia to the Mississippi river, and after having laid out and marked said road, shall make out a plat of the same, specifying the course and distance, and return the said plat to the president and managers; and said commissioners, before they proceed to act, shall take the following oath or affirmation: I, A, B, do swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will lay out and mark the Washington county turnpike road, according to the best of my skill and judgment, agreeably to the purport of an act entitled "An act incorporating a company to make a McAdamized turnpike road from the town of Caledonia, in the county of Washington, to the Mississippi river," and that I am not directly or indirectly interested in any land through which the said road is likely to pass.

SEC. 10. That the said company shall cause the said road to be laid out at least thirty-six feet wide, twenty-four feet whereof in breadth, at least, shall be made an artificial road of that description known and called by the name of McAdamized road, and shall in no place rise or fall more than will form an angle of five degrees with a horizontal line.

SEC. 11. That if the said company shall not commence the making of said road within five years from the passage of this act, and shall not complete the same within five years thereafter, the right of the said company to the said road shall revert to the State of Missouri.

SEC. 12. That the said company having perfected said road according to the intention of this act, it shall and may be lawful for them to erect as many gates on said road, and to appoint such and so many toll-gatherers as they shall think proper.

Approved, *March 16, 1835.*

STATE OF MISSOURI:

I have compared the foregoing act with the original roll now on file in the office of Secretary of State, aforesaid, and have corrected the same thereby.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office, the sixteenth day of March, A. D. 1835.

JOHN C. EDWARDS,
Secretary of State.

